

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TAGS: BEXP, BFOL, EC

SUBJ: WTDR 74-082 ABDON CALDERON & CESAR RODRIGUEZ

REF: USDOC 12160, STATE 184510

1. ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 843, EDIFICIO GRAN PASAJE, BOULEVARD 9 DE OCTUBRE 424, GUAYAQUIL. CABLE: N/A. PHONE 306244. OFFICER: SEE NUMBER 2.

2. ABDON CALDERON PRIETO AND CESAR RODRIGUEZ TALBOT, UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, ECUADOREAN, BOTH AGE 23, MAKE UP A TWO-MAN TEAM ENDEAVORING TO PROMOTE THE CONVERSION OF SOME 32,000 ACRES OF LAND INTO SUGARCANE PLANTATION AND SUGARCANE MILL.

3. LAND, WHICH IS PARTIALLY CO-OWNED BY THE FAMILIES TO WHICH CALDERON AND RODRIGUEZ BELONG, BUT CHIEFLY BY SEVERAL SMALL LANDOWNERS, REPORTED TO BE SUITABLE FOR SUGARCANE PLANTING. OTHER CO-OWNERS REPORTEDLY WILLING TO AGGREGATE THEIR LANDHOLDINGS INTO THE LARGER PROJECT. POTENTIAL PRODUCTION BELIEVED TO BE LARGE ENOUGH TO REQUIRE INTENDED MILL TO BE CAPABLE OF GRINDING 7,000 TONS OF CANE EVERY 24 HOURS. PRODUCTS WOULD BE GRANULATED AND RAW SUGAR; FORMER FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION; LATTER FOR EXPORT.

4. IN VIEW OF LAND CO-OWNERSHIP AND DIFFICULTY PRESENTLY EXPERIENCED IN OBTAINING LOCAL FINANCING, CALDERON AND RODRIGUEZ SEEKING U.S. INVESTOR TO GO INTO JOINT VENTURE AND CONTRIBUTE

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OPERATING CAPITAL TO (A) DEVELOP LAND FROM INITIAL PLANTING

PHASE TO HARVESTING PHASE (B) EQUIP AND OPERATE MILL. ECUADOR GOVERNMENT PRESENTLY GRANTING FIRST PRIORITY TREATMENT TO PROJECTS FOSTERING CANE SUGAR PRODUCTION, AND TRANSACTIONS SUCH AS INCORPORATION, MACHINERY IMPORTATION, AND CREDIT OPERATIONS, WILL BE TAX-EXEMPT.

5. LOCAL BANKS ONLY REPORT CALDERON AND RODRIGUEZ STRAIGHTFORWARD DEPOSITORS MAINTAINING ACCOUNTS WITH MODERATE BALANCES. CALDERON, SON OF LOCAL LEADER OF ONE OF TRADITIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES THAT FROM TIME TO TIME PUBLICLY STATES OPPOSITION TO PRESENT ADMINISTRATION. POST CAN ONLY RECOMMEND THAT INTERESTED PARTIES PERFORM ON-THE-SPOT INSPECTION OF LAND AND THROUGH TECHNICAL AND LEGAL COUNSEL ASCERTAIN ADVANTAGES/RISKS BEFORE TAKING DEFINITE STEPS.

6. DATE OF INFO: 8/74.
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